

HOGAN & HARTSON

Hogan & Hartson LLP
Columbia Square
555 Thirteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004
+1.202.637.5600 **Tel**
+1.202.637.5910 **Fax**

www.hhlaw.com

Paul A. Werner
Associate
202-637-5648
pawerner@hhlaw.com

August 18, 2009

Madeline H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
236 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.
Suite 110
Washington, DC 20002

**Re: High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-3367;
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Aug. 17, 2009, Daniel Brenner, Hogan & Hartson, Scott Randall, General Manager, Cable One, Rick Ferrall, Southern Regional Manager, Metrocast, and the undersigned met with Christi Shewman, Acting Legal Advisor, Wireline, Office of Commissioner Meredith Baker, to discuss the Reply Comments of the Mississippi Cable Telecommunications Association filed in the above-captioned docket.

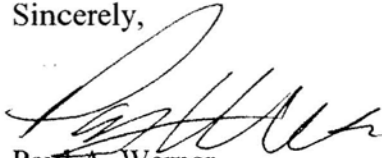
We urged the FCC to include, in its upcoming Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this matter, a question asking whether, in states where phone rates have been substantially deregulated, non-rural carriers should be denied further funds under the FCC's universal service fund high cost non-rural ILEC program.

We pointed out that such funds could be redirected to the low-income program to foster customer-based lifeline and link-up broadband funding programs, eligible to all broadband providers, including ILECs, cable operators and other broadband providers. Such changes to the fund could combine with the efforts of NTIA and RUS, which are aimed at building out unserved areas. With funds available for low-income eligible recipients, broadband providers

Madeline H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
August 18, 2009
Page 2

could bridge the broadband gap by providing computers and high speed internet connectivity under an expanded low-income USF program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul A. Werner', written over a horizontal line.

Paul A. Werner

PAW/dg